

Claims

I claim:

1. A method for modifying steroid production in a mammal comprising administering a compound altering the transfer of cholesterol or cholesteryl ester from high density lipoprotein or other lipoproteins via SR-BI to liver or steroidogenic tissues.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound alters SR-BI expression in the tissue.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound alters binding of SR-BI to high density lipoprotein including cholesteryl ester or other lipoproteins.
4. The method of claim 2 wherein the compound decreases SR-BI expression in the tissue.
5. The method of claim 2 wherein the compound increases SR-BI expression in the tissue.
6. The method of claim 3 wherein the compound decreases SR-BI binding to lipoprotein or transfer of cholesteryl ester in the tissue.
7. The method of claim 3 wherein the compound increases SR-BI binding to lipoprotein or transfer of cholesteryl ester in the tissue.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein the mammal is a female and the compound is administered in an amount effective to prevent normal reproductive function.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein the mammal has a disorder characterized by overproduction of steroids.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein the mammal has a disorder characterized by underproduction of steroids.
11. The method of claim 10 wherein the disorder is menopause.
12. The method of claim 1 wherein the mammal has a disorder which can be treated by decreasing production of steroids.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the disorder is breast or prostate cancer.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein the disorder is endometriosis or fibroid tumors.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound differentially alters the activity of, or expression of, SR-BI in different tissues.

16. The method of claim 11 wherein the compound increases SR-BI expression in reproductive tissues and decreases or does not increase SR-BI expression in liver.

17. A method of manufacture of a compound for use in the method of claim 1, wherein the compound is obtained by screening for binding to or alteration of activity of SR-BI in binding or transfer of cholesterol or cholesteryl ester.

18. A pharmaceutical composition for use in the method of claim 1.